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December 2, 2009

/Jill Wolfe/

December 2, 2009

SIGNATURE

DATE

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Martin Kurth  
Serial No. : 10/584,872  
For : DEVICE FOR RECEIVING OBLONG  
OBJECTS  
Attorney Docket No. : 16-981P/US - 5201

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with CFR §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. Copies of listed foreign patents and other listed publications are enclosed. No copies of the listed U.S. patents and U.S. patent applications are enclosed. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.
2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a corresponding U.S. Patent is enclosed or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth

on an attached sheet, or a copy of an English-language search report is attached.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) ☐ Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) ☒ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) ☐ After the period set forth in 37 CFR \$1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
  - 1) ☐ A certification is given below,
  - 2) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$180.00) set forth in \$1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement,
  - 3) ☐ Charge to credit card (PTO-2038 Form attached), or
  - 4) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

(d) ☐ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. The required certification and fee is indicated below.

1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) \$180, or

2) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

4. Certification (if applicable):

(a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

(b) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry no item of information contained in the Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR \$1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, fees underpaid, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

6. Concise Explanation (if needed):

- (1) ☐ Below is a Concise Statement of  
Relevance of enclosed non-English language  
document(s).

U.S. PATENTS

U.S. Patent No. 3,090,826

U.S. Patent No. 6,164,603

FOREIGN PATENTS

European Patent Appln. EP 1 162 709 A1

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

International Search Report PCT/EP2006/001910

Respectfully submitted,

/John R. Hlavka/

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